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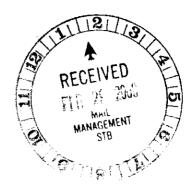
777 Kipling Avenue Etobicoke, Ontario M8Z 5Z4 Telephone (416) 232-3000

February 23, 2000

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Part of Public Record

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary Surface Transportation Board Office of the Secretary Case Control Unit Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582 1925 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



## Dear Sir:

Consumers Packaging Inc. is a glass bottle and container manufacturing company that is a major user of rail service in the U.S. and Canada. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination should be judged on its merits and if other carriers propose mergers, then these cases ought to be evaluated on their merits.

The timing of the proposed CN-BNSF combination is not the central issue for our company. Our concern is service. Recent mergers have failed on service, not because of timing. Accordingly, the Surface Transportation Board should focus on ensuring that CN-BNSF combination and any other future mergers, will deliver service.

The Surface Transportation Board has a comprehensive process to evaluate railroad transactions and protect the public interest. It should fairly evaluate the CN-BNSF combination according to that process. Do not let other railroads use the Surface Transportation Board process to protect themselves and not shippers.

Sincerely,

Michael Fantasia

Manager Transportation Consumers Packaging Inc.

